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CIRCULAR.

OFFICE OF AGENT OF THE STATE.

Camden, March 22, 1864.

A thorough appreciation by Commissioners of Roads of their duties, as prescribed by the Acts of the General Assembly of South Carolina, in relation to the supply of Slave Labor for the Coast, and the prompt and impartial performance of the same, is absolutely indispensable to the Agent of the State, especially in reference to the *arrest of Labor*.

Under the Act of December last, the Agent of the State is required to arrest the labor of defaulting owners, and forward it, at their expense, for a double term of service. To perform this intelligently, he must know *who are defaulters*, and this information he can only get from the returns of Commissioners of Roads, called for by the Act aforesaid. These Returns should contain the following information, viz:

NAMES OF OWNERS.	DISTRICT.	NO. OF ROAD HANDS.	TOTAL AMOUNT OF LABOR.
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The aggregate of all calls, inclusive of the ~~present~~, is *one fourth* of the Road Hands for *five months*, or the *whole* number for *one and a quarter* ($1\frac{1}{4}$) *months*, or thirty-seven and a half ($37\frac{1}{2}$) days. No more than 37½ days labor to *each* Road Hand, including the ~~present~~ call, can be enforced by Commissioners of Roads.

Owners are entitled to credit for *all* labor hitherto performed on fortifications.

There is no exemption recognized by law, except where the owner has but one Road Hand. Certainly the Agent of the State *has no power to exempt*.

Where owners wish to obtain relief for their Hands liable to Road Duty, who are employed on Government work, or by Railroad Companies, they should make application to Department Headquarters for the *Detail* of such Hands, and the detail will be recognized by Commissioners of Roads as sufficient to relieve.

Commissioners of Roads in Division No. 4 are hereby earnestly called upon to send in, to this office, their revised Returns, on or before the 15th April, prox.

R. B. JOHNSON,

Agent of State of South Carolina.

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